

REMARKS

In the above-identified Office Action Claim 11 was rejected as being a claim for a program while failing to refer to the fact that the program is stored on a “computer-readable medium”. In response, Claim 11 has been amended in accordance with the language suggested in the Office Action, and each of the independent Claims 1 and 9-11 has been amended so as to be patentably distinct over the disclosures of the cited Motoyama and Ett references which were relied upon in rejecting the claims.

In particular, by this amendment those claims have been amended to require that the first and second data are registered in the database concurrently but individually, wherein the control means selects only one of the first and second data. These features are supported by Fig. 1 of the drawings in which application data 121 and 123 and image data 122 and 124 are registered concurrently but individually, and by Figs. 9 and 15 in which the image data is selected if the printing is designated as the output method, and Figs. 10 and 16 in which the application data is selected if the sending is designated as the output method.

In the Office Action it is asserted that the Motoyama technique, which merges two inputs and which outputs the merged image data using various output methods, corresponds to the features of the present invention. However, according to that Motoyama technique, the two data inputs are not registered individually since the two are merged. In addition, the Motoyama technique merely outputs both of the two data inputs, and thus does not select either of the two data images in accordance with the designated output method. In other words, the Motoyama reference fails to disclose or suggest the claimed invention having the above-characterized requirements.

The Ett patent also fails to disclose or suggest the claimed invention having those features, so that even if the two references were combined, such combination would not teach or suggest at least these patentable requirements of the amended independent claims.

For these reasons it is believed that the application is in condition for the issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3939.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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